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10 September 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director for  
Management and Services

SUBJECT : OSS Motion Picture Films

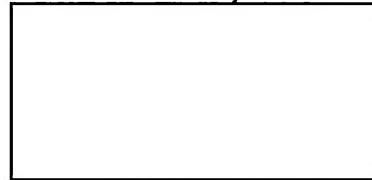
Bob:

This is in response to the questions you raised in connection with the proposal to transfer some or all of the OSS motion picture films to the National Archives.

If the Historical Staff should wish to participate in the review of the films, there would certainly be no objection on the part of this office. Offhand, I would guess that they would have very little interest in the matter, however.

Some of the OSS films are still being used for training purposes. At the present time, five titles (21 copies, in all) are out on loan either to OTR or to DDO field installations. Transfer of the films to the National Archives, of course, would not preclude the retention of copies by the Agency for training purposes.

All of the OSS films are now on safety film.



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Chief, Information Systems Analysis Staff

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Approved For Release 2003/04/29 : CIA-RDP84-00780R005500110014-7

Approved For Release 2003/04/29 : CIA-RDP84-00780R005500110014-7

4 SEP 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Management and Services

SUBJECT : Proposed Release of OSS Films

1. Action Requested: This Agency has in its Archives approximately 100 cubic feet of classified films produced by the Office of Strategic Services. This collection is practically dormant with a very low activity level. Approval is requested to transfer to the National Archives and Records Service such of this collection as may be declassified.

2. Background: The Office of Strategic Services produced films to support its wartime mission. Such films fall into two categories -- instructional films and operational films. The former category includes classified training films on tradecraft, weaponry and the like which were used for the purpose of instructing OSS personnel in the use of the tools of the trade. These films are classified because they represented techniques being used by OSS in operations against an active wartime enemy. The second category includes those films which were taken by OSS operatives engaged in missions behind enemy lines. These films were classified because of the identities involved, the locale and the tactical situation at the time.

With the passage of time, both categories of film have become obsolete. In many cases, the information contained in such films no longer requires protection as revealing "intelligence methods and sources." In other cases, the revelation of identities does no damage to U. S. national security or foreign relations interests. On the other hand, some of these films, such as "The Mission to Yenan," would be of considerable historical interest to researchers. Since these classified film records are nearly 30 years of age, we are obligated by EO 11652 to conduct a review of them for declassification in a manner of our own choosing.

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3. Recommendation: It is recommended that the Classification Programs Branch in conjunction with DDO representatives review the OSS films held in the Agency Archives for purposes of declassification. It is further recommended that those films which can be declassified be transferred as a collection to the National Archives and Records Service, which will then act as a servicing point for requests relative to the subject films.

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[REDACTED]  
Chief, Information Systems Analysis Staff

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CONCUR:



APPROVED: /s/ Robert S. Wattles

6 SEP 1973

DISAPPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution:

Orig - Ret to ISAS

1 - DD/M&S (Chrono)

1 - DD/M&S (Subject)

1 - C [REDACTED]

1 - Chief, Agency Archives

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